

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraphs [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] According to a first aspect of the invention, A wafer boat preform comprises a wafer boat preform formed of a boat fabrication material selected from a the group consisting of silicon, silicon compound comprising at least one silicon atom and in which silicon is a majority, silicon and germanium,  $\text{Si}_x\text{Ge}_{1-x}$   $\text{Si}_{x1}\text{Ge}_{1-x1}$  solid solution, wherein  $0 \leq X1 \leq 1$ , silicon and Silicon Carbide  $\text{Si}_x(\text{SiC})_{1-x}$ , silicon and silicon carbide wherein silicon is a majority $\text{Si}_{x2}(\text{SiC})_{1-x2}$ , wherein  $0.3 \leq X2 \leq 1$ , silicon and silicon dioxide  $\text{Si}_{x3}(\text{SiO}_2)_{1-x3}$  $\text{Si}_x(\text{SiO}_2)_{1-x}$ , wherein  $0 < X3 < 1$ , silicon and any a ceramic and in which silicon is the majority material, silicon and any an oxide  $\text{Si}_{x4}(\text{Oxide})_1$ .  $x_4\text{Si}_x(\text{Oxide})_{1-x}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X4 \leq 1$ , silicon and any a metal  $\text{Si}_{x5}\text{M}_{1-x5}$  $\text{Si}_x\text{M}_{1-x}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , silicon and any a metal alloy  $\text{Si}_{x6}\text{A}_{1-x6}$  $\text{Si}_x\text{A}_{1-x}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , and any combinations thereof.

Please replace paragraphs [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] According to another aspect of the present invention, a process for fabrication of water boat preforms comprises providing a boat fabrication material selected from a the group consisting of silicon, silicon and germanium,  $\text{Si}_{x1}\text{Ge}_{1-x1}$  solid solution, wherein  $0 \leq X1 \leq 1$ , silicon and silicon carbide wherein silicon is a majority $\text{Si}_{x2}(\text{SiC})_{1-x2}$ , wherein  $0.3 \leq X2 \leq 1$ , silicon and silicon dioxide  $\text{Si}_{x3}(\text{SiO}_2)_{1-x3}$ , wherein  $0 < X3 < 1$ , silicon and a ceramic and in which silicon is the majority material, silicon and an oxide  $\text{Si}_{x4}(\text{Oxide})_{1-x4}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X4 \leq 1$ , silicon and a metal  $\text{Si}_{x5}\text{M}_{1-x5}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , silicon and a metal alloy  $\text{Si}_{x6}\text{A}_{1-x6}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , and combinations thereof, and forming a wafer boat preform from the boat fabrication material.

Please replace paragraphs [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a process for fabrication of a member having the shape of a tube, a plate, or a rod, comprises providing a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, silicon and germanium,  $\text{Si}_{x1}\text{Ge}_{1-x1}$  solid solution, wherein

$0 \leq X1 \leq 1$ , silicon and silicon carbide  $\text{Si}_{x2}(\text{SiC})_{1-x2}$ , ~~wherein  $0.3 \leq X2 \leq 1$~~  wherein silicon is a  
majority, silicon and silicon dioxide  $\text{Si}_{x3}(\text{SiO}_2)_{1-x3}$ , wherein  $0 < X3 < 1$ , silicon and a ceramic and in  
 which silicon is the majority material, silicon and an oxide  $\text{Si}_{x4}(\text{Oxide})_{1-x4}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X4 \leq 1$ ,  
 silicon and a metal  $\text{Si}_{x5}\text{M}_{1-x5}$ , wherein  $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , silicon and a metal alloy  $\text{Si}_{x6}\text{A}_{1-x6}$ , wherein  
 $0 \leq X5 \leq 1$ , and combinations thereof, and forming a tube, a plate, or a rod from the material.